

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2025, the Trump Administration launched “Operation Midway Blitz,” unleashing a militarized immigration enforcement campaign across Chicago and the surrounding region that brought masked and heavily armed federal agents into our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, commercial corridors and public spaces; and

WHEREAS, during Operation Midway Blitz, federal agents conducted warrantless arrests and discriminatory stops, deployed chemical agents in residential neighborhoods, engaged in dangerous vehicle pursuits, used extreme physical force, and carried out enforcement operations that spread fear and chaos throughout Chicago; and

WHEREAS, federal agents operated in masks and military-style gear, traveled in unmarked vehicles, and used tactics that made parents afraid to take their children to school, seniors afraid to seek medical care, workers afraid to report to their jobs, families afraid to shop for groceries, and residents afraid to simply walk the streets of the neighborhoods they call home; and

WHEREAS, in the face of this campaign of fear, Chicagoans refused to surrender their communities or their values; and

WHEREAS, across communities throughout Chicago, residents built rapid-response networks to bear witness to the actions of federal agents; and

WHEREAS, Rapid Responders woke before dawn and stayed out late into the night, lawfully patrolling neighborhood streets, monitoring federal activity, staffing hotlines and communications networks, verifying reports of immigration agents, documenting enforcement actions, and recording badge numbers and license plates; and

WHEREAS, in communities across Chicago, residents transformed the simple act of blowing an orange whistle into a declaration that no Chicagoan would be taken from our streets without their neighbors bearing witness; and

WHEREAS, Rapid Responders and community members continued this work even as observers, protesters, journalists and residents themselves faced chemical agents, physical force and the threat of arrest for documenting and protesting federal immigration operations; and

WHEREAS, these acts of courage were carried out not by people seeking recognition, but by parents, teachers, workers, students, retirees, faith leaders, organizers, lawyers, business owners and neighbors who saw an injustice unfolding on their block and decided that they would not look away; and

WHEREAS, many of Chicago’s elected officials stood alongside these communities, used their offices and platforms to lawfully defend immigrant communities, demanded accountability for federal abuses, connected constituents with resources, joined neighborhood responses, and affirmed that every Chicagoan deserves to live with dignity and without fear, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Chicago's resistance did not end at the boundaries of our City, as the whistles, rapid-response networks, school escorts, neighborhood patrols and other strategies developed and strengthened here became a model for communities confronting unlawful immigration enforcement across the country; and

WHEREAS, Chicago is a city built by immigrants and working people, and our immigrant neighbors are not outsiders to be feared or political pawns to be exploited, but our coworkers, classmates, congregants, business owners, caregivers, friends and family members who make Chicago the city that it is; and

WHEREAS, at a moment when cruelty was intended to produce fear and fear was intended to produce silence, Chicago's Rapid Responders chose courage, solidarity and action; and

WHEREAS, Rapid Responders represent the best of Chicago— a city that protects its communities, stands up to injustice, refuses to be divided by race, birthplace or immigration status, and understands that our collective safety depends upon our willingness to fight for one another; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 23rd day of September, 2026, honor and express our profound gratitude to Chicago's Rapid Responders and the thousands of residents, community organizations, faith institutions, legal advocates, neighborhood businesses and mutual-aid networks that lawfully protected and supported immigrant communities during Operation Midway Blitz; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Chicago recognizes the extraordinary courage of those who put their own safety at risk to bear witness, sound the alarm, document abuses, accompany their neighbors and ensure that immigrant families knew they were not alone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit to remembering not only what was done to Chicago during Operation Midway Blitz, but what Chicagoans did for one another in response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that when future generations ask how Chicago responded when our neighbors were targeted, let the record show that this City did not hide, did not surrender and did not abandon its people — Chicago showed up. Chicago stood together. And Chicago chose love over fear; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to representatives of Chicago's rapid-response networks as an expression of the gratitude and respect of the Chicago City Council and the people of the City of Chicago.